Ile not be made a ſoft and dull- ey'd foole,
To ſhake the head, relent, and ſigh, and yeeld
To Chriſtian interceſſors: follow not,
Ile haue no ſpeaking, I will haue my bond.

*Exit Iew.*

*Sol.* It is the moſt impenetrable curre
That euer kept with men.
*Ant.* Let him alone,
Ile follow him no more with bootleſſe prayers.
He ſeekes my life, his reaſon well I know:
I oft deliuer'd from his forfeitures
Many that haue at times made mone to mee,
Therefore he hates me.
*Sal.* I am ſure the Duke will neuer grant
This forfeyture to hold.
*An.* The Duke cannot deny the courſe of Law:
For the commodity that ſtrangers haue
With vs in Venice, if it be denied,
Will much impeach the iuſtice of his ſtate,
Since that the trade and profit of the City
Conſiſteth of all Nations. Therefore goe,
Theſe greefes and loſſes haue ſo bated me,
That I ſhall hardly ſpare a pound of fleſh
To morrow, to my bloody Creditor.
VVell Iaylor on, pray God *Baſſanio* come
To ſee me pay his debt, and then I care not. *Exeunt.*

*Enter Portia, Nerriſſa, Lorenzo, Ieſſica, and a man of Portias.*

*Lor.* Madam, although I ſpeake it in your preſence,
You haue a noble and a true conceite
Of God-like amity, which appeares moſt ſtrongly,
In bearing thus the abſence of your Lord.
But if you knew to whom you ſhew this honour,
How true a Gentleman you ſend releeſe,

How



How deere a louer
I know you would
Then cuſtomary bo
*Por.* I neuer did
Nor ſhall not now:
That do conuerſe a
Whoſe ſoules do be
There muſt be need
Of lineaments, of m
Which makes me th
(Being the boſome-
Muſt needs be like
How little is the co
In purchaſing the ſe
From out the ſtate o
This comes too neer
Therefore no more c
*Lorenzo* I commit in
The husbandry and
Vntill my Lords retu
I haue toward heaue
To liue in prayer and
Onely attended by
Vntill her husband, a
There is a Monaſter
And there will we a
Not to deny this imp
The which my loue,
Now layes vpon you
*Lor.* Madame, wit
I ſhall obey you in a
*Por.* My people d
And will acknowled
In place of Lord *Baſſ*
And ſo farewell till
*Lor.* Faire though

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* (STC 22297) LONDON, 1600 [1619] THE BRITIS